Mr. Charles W. Hinkle, Director,
FOIA and Security Review
Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
1/23/81

79 DFOI-1044

Dear Mr. Hinkle,

The reference included above may not be appropriate to the purpose of this letter but I use it because the person who handled that matter tried to be helpful and informative and because searching my own files is now beyond my capacity. I explain this first.

I look forward to my 68th birthday in April. In September I was operated on and given a plastic artery in the thigh. There were complications and as a result I am severely limited in what I can do. Prior to this surgery arterial and venous blockages provided their own limitations.

Over the years I filed a number of FOI requests with various military components, including your office. Responses often were totally untruthful- nothing personal in this. The requests pertained to the assassination of President Kennedy and its official incestigations. Both the Army and the Navy told me they had nothing. (This Navy request pertained to the autopsy. Navy Intelligence was not unresponsive.) I learned that the Army had had three files and that they had, incredibly, been destoryed.

There is a current and in my view infamous book titled Best Evidence by David Lifton. It includes information within my requests that was denied to me. It includes responses from the Army and the Navy pertaining to the autopsy. I would like to obtain the information that Lifton uses, I rather suspect misuses, but it is beyond my capacity to try and pick all of this up with the various agencies, particularly when having been untruthful in the past they may have motive for not being cooperative today. I am hoping that your office can arrange to have those records provided, with a fee waiver that several courts have held I qualify for.

I am without doubt that great harm is being done to many innocent persons and their families and I would like to be able to do as much as I can to correct this. It is for this reason and in the interest of an accurate historical record that I renew these re-

quests and solicit your assistance.

Lifton has concocted an incredible conspiracy in which the Secret Service and the military are the most significant of an almost limitless number of evil doers. His major claim and the one that got him such attention as on Good Morning America is that the president's body was intercepted and toyed with, destroying some evidence and fabricating deceptive evidence. Essential in his account is a miliary guard and a second casket. These, he alleges, enabled the interception of the body at Bethesda, etc.

So I am particularly interested in any records pertaining to the dispatching of the casket and the guard and in any information relating to practise of that period with respect to both. Would a clean casket have been sent in the normal course of those events, with a guard, in a hearse, etc.?

He refers to log books in which entries were made. If they exist I would much appreciate copies of this pages.

In my view my original requests were inclusive and I sought all information pertaining to the assassination and its investigation and that this therefore is not a new, inclusive request. I think you may have some recollection from our prior correspondence.

If you must regard this as a new request, OK.

Thank you for anything you do.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg